



Training Workgroup Meeting Notes

TO:
Training Workgroup Members

FROM:
Colleen Graber

SUBJECT:
Michigan's Campaign to End
Homelessness

DATE:
10/01/2008

Items Relevant to Other Workgroups

None currently.

Attendees

Lisa Chapman, CSH
Jeff Betlewski, GOCAA
Amy Smith, St. Clair CMH
Lindsey Bishop, CSH
Paulette Smith, MSHDA

Monica Bellamy, MDCH
Emily Doerr, CEDAM)
Shannon Baltimore, HUD
Colleen Graber, PPA
Dan Gough, PPA

Public Policy Research,
Development,
and Evaluation

Discussion Items

■ Welcome and Introductions

- Lisa Chapman began with introductions and a roll call. Lisa is serving as the group's chair. Colleen is helping to support and facilitate the group, working closely with Lisa. Group members include:
 - ◆ Emily Doerr, CEDAM. Works on real estate training. Interested in providing more sessions about the concepts of affordable housing, accessibility, incorporating to align with current market situations.
 - ◆ Amy Smith, CMH, Region 5. Title: Community planning officer. Also is a Continuum of Care coordinator and on the training committee of her Regional Council.
 - ◆ Paulette Smith, MSHDA. Title: Housing Assistance Specialist for regions 5 and 8. Works out of Detroit. Requests for training often come to her.
 - ◆ Jeff Betlewski, GOCAA. Works as the CoC chair and handles all housing and homeless programs in his two counties. Interested in training. Background with the YMCA.
 - ◆ Lindsey Bishop, CSH. Title: Program Manager. Duties include training—statewide and tailored. Curious about what people are interested in.
 - ◆ Chuck Steinberg will be joining the group with the next meeting. He was recently hired by MCAH.

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- ◆ [Monica Bellamy of the Michigan Department of Community Health, and Shannon Baltimore of the HUD Detroit field office joined the call later.]
- Basic guidelines for conference call meetings were suggested:
 - ◆ Use *6 to mute your phone and #6 to take off the mute.
 - ◆ Say your name when speaking to help with familiarity.
 - ◆ Give the meeting the same attention you would if you were meeting in person.
- Campaign History and Structure
 - Lisa reviewed the history of the Campaign to End Homelessness and its structure. Beginning in 2005, there were explorations of policy issues around families and homelessness on a statewide basis and Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness emerged. There are several layers in the Campaign, including the regions. It is a collaborative effort.
 - The statewide workgroups have recently been solidified and serve to:
 - ◆ Identify gaps and best practices
 - ◆ Identify barriers and determine how to better coordinate activities
- Review Scope of Group Charge
 - *Goals:* strengthen infrastructure, promote collaboration, build capacity of organizations to implement strategies, look at effectiveness and reach of the current situation, and collect and share best practices across the state.
 - The group will coordinate with the Affordable Housing Conference. The Coalition is the planning leader this year, which makes this fairly easy.
 - There are training elements in the five-year strategic plan. Lisa will provide the group with a copy.
- Group Charter Discussion
 - Reviewed Charter page by page.
 - ◆ *Mission, purpose.* Training group attempts to address the Campaign on a statewide level in order to better address homelessness issues. Other workgroups will attack the problem from their related issues. Together attempt to coordinate to function as a whole. Will need to discuss frequency of meetings. Expect a year-long commitment. Will mainly meet through conference calls.
 - ◆ *Membership.* Looking at a max of about 20 people with room to add people currently, any ideas for additions? Can consider adding a co-chair for the group in the future. Workgroups with good geographic representative with perspectives from across the state with a variety of organizations and communities represented. Responsibilities of members include helping to set priorities, contribute ideas and practices, and share knowledge. Lisa believes representation is good across the state. Colleen noted that subcommittees could be done if necessary.
 - ◆ *Communication.* Information will come primarily through email from Lisa. Minutes to follow each meeting. Lisa's role includes keeping communication link with the Departmental Resource Team. Lindsey asked who was on the DRT. Colleen reviewed the agencies involved. These include MSHDA, MDOC, MDCH, MDHS, Corporation for Supportive Housing, and the Coalition Against Homelessness. More discussion of the DRT will occur on October 15.

- Review of Policy Academy for Homeless Families and Children Recommendations and Relevance
 - *Strategic Issue 1.* Strengthen infrastructure through education and technical assistance to local nonprofits, public systems, and housing providers.
 - ◆ *Recommendation 1.1.* Increase potential for networking between key partners through sharing of best practice information.
 - ◆ *Recommendation 1.2.* Develop a Supportive Housing Institute for developers, service providers, and advocates. The institute should offer various levels of training and programs on housing development, housing access, services, and collaboration.
 - The Supportive Housing Institute has already been accomplished per Lindsey. Starting another in 2009. How do we publicize these trainings? Take a look at impact and have they met their goal? Other training opportunities?
 - Best practices: How do we get these out there? Emily suggested pushing for uniformity, not hard to have another section on a Web site to list these training opportunities; the www.mittac.org calendar could be updated pretty easily. Would add another avenue. CEDAM runs this calendar. Might help to expose more people to the training available. Seems often people find out about training by accident.
 - Are training best practices known? More could be done. Paulette noted that MSHDA has been issuing grants to the Regional Councils for training but most have not been spent these or training is not available in individual communities.
 - *Strategic Issue 2.* Promoting collaboration among Supportive Housing partners, including service agencies, developers, and property management companies.
 - ◆ *Recommendation 2.1.* Provide key partners with information regarding best practice efforts nationwide, including accessibility, universal design techniques, and products and resources.
 - ◆ *Recommendation 2.2.* Identify incentives to encourage housing developers to partner with service organizations to create supportive housing units within multifamily projects under development.
 - ◆ *Recommendation 2.3.* Develop a plan in collaboration with existing property management companies that will address the need to house people who are homeless or have special needs within existing available housing units.
 - Provide key partners with information nationwide: Emily that with regards to accessibility the Zero-Step Coalition would be a good partner to work with (<http://www.zerostep.org/index2.htm>). Good for training and information. Need to improve statewide visibility.
 - Identify incentives for developers: Lindsey commented that great strides have been in the area. More is being done and with that, we need more tailored training and more incentives with training attached.
 - Develop a plan with current property management: There is a need to focus more training on this issue.
 - *Strategic Issue 3.* Build capacity of organizations and communities to implement strategies for ending homelessness.

- ◆ *Recommendation 3.1.* Provide technical assistance and training for providers and administrators at all levels to help enhance consumer access to high-quality housing and services.
 - ◆ *Recommendation 3.2.* Implement standardized quality improvement system for CoCs and state-funded programs serving homeless populations.
 - ◆ *Recommendation 3.3.* Enhance staff development and training to motivate, retain, and improve the performance of line workers in grassroots shelters and related community-based homeless programs or services.
 - ◆ *Recommendation 3.4.* Increase technical assistance and training for increasing both housing production and effectiveness of related services.
 - Any gaps? Awareness? Paulette said a one-stop shop for services is funded by MSHDA; it is in Flint and opened about two months, but does not know what else is out there that is not supported by MSHDA.
 - Emily gets asked what services groups are willing to partner with these projects on affordable and supp housing? Any lists or other resources? Paulette said those questions should be referred to MSHDA because they would like to tailor each issue to each project concept.
 - Shannon sees money coming back to HUD unused. How do we get more units for housing? Why is this money coming back? Needs to be a better relationship with the CoCs and HUD. Amy suggested there needs to be a link somehow with community collaboratives.
 - Shannon asked what the best way was to make these issues known and how go about making the process of recapturing funds more transparent. Lindsey suggested improved communication. What is the easiest way to do this?
 - How good is the outreach to let tenants know that these programs are out there? Mostly dependant on community resources.
- Modifications to the Workgroup Charter
 - No modifications to the Charter were requested.
 - Action Planning
 - A planning template is being created to guide the team. The plan will be the focus of the October 15 meeting. Included will be discussion of timelines, milestones, and measures of success.
 - PPA can provide research resources as needed to further the work of the group.

Next Meeting

- October 15, 2008, noon-5:00 p.m., at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing
- Please bring your calendar to this meeting to facilitate scheduling of future meetings.
- You may contact Juliann Kline of MSHDA at 517-241-1440 with any questions. Please register for the lunch at www.mittac.org.